

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, ECOSOC ITU

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP - ECOSOC IN-DEPTH STUDY OF ITU

BEGIN SUMMARY:

1. GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL) MET MAY 30, CHAIRED BY UK AND ATTENDED BY ALL MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS TO CONSIDER INITIAL GUIDANCE BRIEF PREPARED BY JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WITH VIEW TO COORDINATED GENEVA GROUP APPROACH TO IN-DEPTH STUDY OF ITU TO BE CONSIDERED AT FIFTY SEVENTH SESSION OF ECOSOC.

2. NOTE ON MEETING LISTING GROUP'S AREAS OF AGREEMENT WILL BE PREPARED AND CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS FOR USE IN PREPARATION OF BRIEFING PAPERS FOR THEIR DELEGATIONS TO ECOSOC. END SUMMARY.

3. PROPOSITIONS CONSIDERED BY GROUP WERE GENERALLY AS FOLLOWS:

A. ECOSOC SHOULD INSIST THAT, IN SELECTING AGENCIES FOR FUTURE IN-DEPTH STUDIES, FACTOR OF SCHEDULED DATE OF NEXT SESSION OF AGENCIES SUPREME GOVERNING BODY BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT. THIS YEAR'S STUDY ON ITU IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS MEETING OF ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE WITH RESULT THAT NO IMPORTANT CHANGES

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IN ORGANIZATION, EVEN IF RECOMMENDED BY ECOSOC, COULD TAKE PLACE

UNTIL 1980 OR THERABOUTS. IN-DEPTH STUDY OF UPU, NOW SCHEDULED BY ACC FOR NEXT YEAR, MAY FACE SIMILAR SITUATION IN THAT UPU CONGRESS IS NOW IN SESSION AND NEXT CONGRESS NOT EXPECTED TO CONVENE UNTIL 1979.

B. ALTHOUGH OPINIONS ON DESIRABILITY OF ITU'S SO-CALLED FEDERAL AS OPPOSED TO PYRAMIDAL STRUCTURE NOT UNANIMOUS, IT APPEARED THAT MOST FAVORED CONTINUATION OF CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ALL AWARE THAT NOTHING MUCH COULD BE DONE UNTIL 1980 IN ANY CASE. CONCEPT OF STRENGTHENING FUNCTION OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE WAS CHAMPIONED BY UK AND JAPAN THOUGH FEASIBILITY OF SUCH MOVE QUESTIONED BY SWISS REP RUTSCHI, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN IF ITU'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE.

4. DISCUSSION OF WORLD PLAN COMMITTEE WITH CANADA FAVORING ITS ELIMINATION ENDED WITH GENRAL AGREEMENT THAT ITS PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE CLOSELY WATCHED AND THAT SYG MIGHT BE ASKED TO REPORT ON IT TO ECOSOC IN ONE YEAR'S TIME. REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEES WERE STRONGLY QUESTIONED.

5. FREQUENCY OF CONFERENCES WAS DISCUSSED WITH SUGGESTION THAT ITU ENDEAVOR SCHEDULE CONFERENCES SUCH AS CCI STUDY GROUPS' SESSIONS DURING CONSECUTIVE PERIODS AT A SINGLE LOCATION. OTHERS FELT THIS BEYOND SECRETARIAT CAPACITY, I.E. TO PREPARE FOR TWO CONFERENCES CONCURRENTLY.

6. WITH PERHAPS ONE EXCEPTION, THERE SEEMED GENERAL OPPOSITION TO ITU SPONSORSHIP OF TELECOM 75 EXHIBITION AND MEMBERS ALSO WONDERED WHETHER ITU WAS NOT OVERLY INVOLVED IN PUBLICIZING ITSELF THROUGH ITS INFORMATION SERVICES.

7. NEED FOR AND COST OF ITU REGIONAL EXPERTS SHOULD BE QUESTIONED NOW THAT UNDP APPEARED TO BE PHASING OUT OF SUPPORT FOR SUCH EXPOERTS. POSSIBILITY OF REQUESTING JIU STUDY OF THIS MATTER SUGGESTED

BY SOME.

8. UNDER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, GROUP NOTED SHORTFALL OF UNDP OVERHEAD PAYMENTS IN MEETING ITU'S TECHNICAL SUPPORT COSTS AND OPINION WAS EXPRESSED THAT PERHAPS ON O AND M STUDY WOULD REVEAL UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT ITU'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROVIDING SUCH SUPPORT THROUGH SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION WAS ITSELF FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS SHORTFALL. ANOTHER OPINION ON THIS, HOWEVER, WAS THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAD TO BE SEPARATE BECAUSE EXPERTISE ON CCIS WAS GENERALLY AT TOO HIGH A LEVE TO BE IMMEDIATELY USEFUL TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' NEEDS AND THAT A LESS SPECIALIZED SERVICE WAS PROVIDED BY TECHNICAL COOPERATION STAFF.

9. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT, ASSUMING TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL FEASIBILITY EXISTED, ITU SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO UTILIZATION OF ICC COMPUTER FACILITY. IT WAS NOTED THAT FACTORS OF SECURITY, ACCESS AND COMPATIBILITY WERE REPORTEDLY NO LONGER SERIOUS IMPEDIMENTS TO SUCH UTILIZATION AND THAT UN SYSTEM TASK FORCE OF WHICH ICC AND ITU ARE MEMBERS MIGHT BE ASKED TO EXAMINE THIS MATTER AT AN EARLY DATE.

10. QUESTIONS RAISED IN JAPANESE GUIDANCE PAPER RE COMPUTER DEPARTMENT STAFF WERE NOTED WITH OBSERVATION THAT CERTAIN CHANGES IN STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS NOW DUNDERWAY (APPOINTMENT OF US DEPUTY) MIGHT IMPROVE SITUATION. IBVIOUSLY SWITCH TO ICC COMPUTER, IF APPROVED, WOULD AFFECT STAFFING PATTERNS.

11. AMONG THE BUDGET QUESTIONS POSED WERE NEED FOR ITU TO INDICATE WHAT PROPORTION OF ITS BUDGET INCREASES STEMMED FROM INFLATION AND WHAT PROPORTION FROM PROGRAM EXPANSION. PRACTICE OF SEMI-FULL RATHER THAN FULL BUDGETING WOULD BE PREFERABLE FROM VIEWPOINT GENEVA GROUP POLICY AS STATED IN 11TH CONSULTTION. POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES OF BIENNIAL BUDGETING WITHIN SIX YEAR BUDGETARY OR PLANNING FRAMEWORK WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AS BEING WORTHY OF EXAMINATION BY ORGANIZATION.DALE

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